Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A load balancing method <u>for a system having a storage and a plurality of information processing modules that can be shared among business services,</u> comprising the steps of:

registering a business configuration definition of each business service including a schedule of [[the]] <u>a corresponding</u> business service with a business configuration management repository <u>of said storage by a configuration unit of said system</u>;

storing at least a service level objective of each business service <u>in a service-level-objective table of said storage by a service-level-objective unit of said system</u>;

storing information on performance of each <u>of said plurality of</u> information processing modules ~~module~~ in a performance management table <u>of said storage by said configuration unit</u>;

reading the schedule of a designated business service from the business configuration definition registered with the business configuration management repository <u>by a reservation unit of said system</u>;

acquiring <u>from said service-level-objective unit</u> the stored service level objective of the designated business service <u>by said reservation unit</u>;

partitioning the schedule of the designated business service read from the business configuration definition into a plurality of partial schedules according to the acquired service level objective <u>by said reservation unit</u>;

<u>registering in advance the business configuration definition that includes judgment</u>

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information indicating contents of the start process and finish process of each business service

with the business configuration management repository;

comparing the judgment information of an already-reserved business service with the

judgment information of the designated business service;

selecting one or more information processing modules of said plurality of information

processing modules whose performance information stored in the performance management

table satisfies the service level objective in each partial schedule; and

reserving the information processing modules selected satisfying the service level

objective in the partial schedules as information processing modules for executing the designated

business service in the schedule in said storage, and omitting a step in a start process or finish

process of the designated business service that coincides with a step of a business service that has

already been reserved with the information processing module.

2. (Currently amended) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein the

partitioning of the schedule read from the business configuration definition by said reservation

unit is conducted in units of spans in each of which the service level objective remains constant.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein the

reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service

in said storage is made omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service if a step capable of substituting for the particular step has not been omitted.

6. (Currently amended) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service in said storage is made omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service if the omission of the particular step has no effect on already-reserved business services.

7. (Currently amended) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service is made avoiding omission of a particular step under processing in a start process or finish process of the designated business service if flag information of to make the reservation omitting the particular step exists in flag information of a start process of a subsequent already-reserved business service when the reservation is made possible.

8. (Currently amended) The load balancing method according to claim 1, wherein diversion information indicating that an information processing module that has already been reserved by another business service is diverted into the designated business service is stored in said storage when it is impossible to fully reserve the information processing modules for executing the designated business service.

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9. (Currently amended) A load balancing system comprising:

a business configuration management processing unit which registers a business

configuration definition of each business service including a schedule of the business service

with a business configuration management repository;

a service-level-objective [[an SLO]] management processing unit which stores at least a

service level objective of each business service in a service-level-objective [[an SLO]]

management table;

a performance management processing unit which stores information on performance of

each of said plurality of information processing modules-module in a performance management

table; and

a reservation management processing unit which reads the schedule of a designated

business service from the business configuration definition registered with the business

configuration management repository, acquires from said service-level-objective unit the stored

service level objective of the designated business service, partitions the schedule of the

designated business service read from the business configuration definition into a plurality of

partial schedules according to the acquired service level objective, registers in advance the

business configuration definition that includes flag information indicating contents of the start

process and finish process of each business service with the business configuration management

repository, compares the flag information of an already-reserved business service with the flag

information of the designated business service, selects one or more information processing

modules of said plurality of information processing modules whose performance information

stored in the performance management table satisfies the service level objective in each partial

schedule, [[and]] reserves the information processing modules selected for the partial schedules

as information processing modules for executing the designated business service in the schedule, omits a step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service that coincides with a step of a business service that has already been reserved with the information processing module.

10. (Original) The load balancing system according to claim 9, wherein the reservation management processing unit conducts the partitioning of the schedule in units of spans in each of which the service level objective remains constant.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The load balancing system according to claim 9, wherein the reservation management processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service if a step capable of substituting for the particular step has not been omitted.

14. (Original) The load balancing system according to claim 9, wherein the reservation management processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the designated business service omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service if the omission of the particular step has no effect on

already-reserved business services.

15. (Currently amended) The load balancing system according to claim 9, wherein the

reservation management processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing

modules for executing the designated business service avoiding omission of a particular step

under processing in a start process or finish process of the designated business service if flag

information of to make the reservation omitting the particular step exists in flag information of a

start process of a subsequent already-reserved business service when the reservation is made

possible.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A program for instructing a computer in a system having a

storage and a plurality of information processing modules that can be shared among business

services, to function as:

a business configuration management processing unit which registers a business

configuration definition of each business service including a schedule of [[the]] a corresponding

business service with a business configuration management repository;

a service-level-objective [[an SLO]] management processing unit which stores at least a

service level objective of each business service in a service-level-objective [[an SLO]]

management table;

a performance management processing unit which stores information on performance of

each of said plurality of information processing modules module in a performance management

table; and

a reservation management processing unit which reads the schedule of a designated business service from the business configuration definition registered with the business configuration management repository, acquires from said service-level-objective unit the stored service level objective of the designated business service, partitions the schedule of the designated business service read from the business configuration definition into a plurality of partial schedules according to the acquired service level objective, registers in advance the business configuration definition that includes flag information indicating contents of the start process and finish process of each business service with the business configuration management repository, compares the flag information of an already-reserved business service with the flag information of the designated business service, selects one or more information processing modules whose performance information stored in the performance management table satisfies the service level objective in each partial schedule, [[and]] reserves the information processing modules selected for the partial schedules as information processing modules for executing the designated business service in the schedule, and omits a step in a start process or finish process of the designated business service that coincides with a step of a business service that has already been reserved with the information processing module.

18. (New) The program according to claim 17, wherein the reservation management processing unit conducts the partitioning of the schedule in units of spans in each of which the service level objective remains constant.

19. (New) The program according to claim 17, wherein the reservation management

processing unit realizes the omission by:

registering in advance the business configuration definition that includes flag information

indicating contents of the start process and finish process of each business service with the

business configuration management repository, and

comparing the flag information of the already-reserved business service with the flag

information of the designated business service.

20. (New) The program according to claim 17, wherein the reservation management

processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the

designated business service omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the

designated business service if a step capable of substituting for the particular step has not been

omitted.

21. (New) The program according to claim 17, wherein the reservation management

processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the

designated business service omitting a particular step in a start process or finish process of the

designated business service if the omission of the particular step has no effect on already-

reserved business services.

22. (New) The program according to claim 17, wherein the reservation management

processing unit makes the reservation of the information processing modules for executing the

designated business service avoiding omission of a particular step under processing of the

designated business service to make the reservation omitting the particular step when the

reservation is made possible.